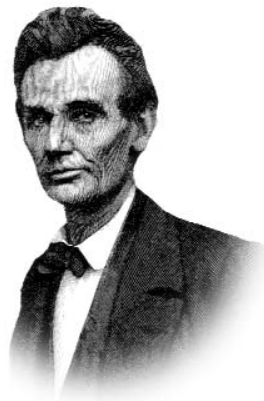


Abraham Lincoln was the first American president to wear a beard. And his beard had ties to Kansas.



When Lincoln was campaigning for president he received a letter from 11-year-old Grace Bedell. "I have got four brothers and part of them will vote for you anyway and if you will let your whiskers grow I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you." Grace wrote. "You would look a great deal better for your face is so thin...All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would be President."

Abraham Lincoln grew a beard and later was elected president.

Grace went to watch President Lincoln give a speech and he asked to meet his "little correspondent." Lincoln gave Grace a kiss on the cheek and the crowd cheered.



At age 19, Grace married and moved with her husband to Osborne County, Kansas. Today, Grace's letter to Lincoln and his return letter to her are engraved on a monument in Delphos.

From *Kansas Kaleidoscope*, February 1998

## *If I went West, I think I would go to Kansas.*

-Abraham Lincoln

Before Abraham Lincoln was elected President he came to Kansas for six days. He came to visit his cousins. He also came to give speeches about what he would do when he became president.

Abraham Lincoln loved to tell jokes and stories to children. His niece, Mary Delahay wrote down one of the funny stories.

One day, Mr. Lincoln took off his size 14 boots. He told his son he thought he had something inside the toe of his boot. His son tapped the heel of the boot on the floor and out came a full-grown mouse.



From *Lincoln and Kansas*  
By Carol Dark Ayers



Abe Lincoln liked to tease his nieces Mary and Julia Delahay. He would tell them stories about his sons at home. The girls liked the stories so much that Mr. Lincoln told them he would give them his sons. He said, "Shall I give them to you girls? Mary, there is Robert for you, and Julia you may have Willie, but what about Tad? What shall I do about him- - there is no girl for him." Then he chuckled and repeated what Tad said when people asked him his name: "My name is Tod, but they call me Tommie Tad sometime." And Mr. Lincoln's great voice would roar in laughter.

From *Lincoln and Kansas*  
By Carol Dark Ayers





*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*



*A. Lincoln*